

March 7, 2022

Dear Friend and Neighbor,

The 2022 Legislative Session is nearing the home stretch. Most of our committees are winding down and will soon stop meeting, allowing us to spend more time on the floor.

These next couple weeks are crucial to the process of the legislature. This is the time where the bills, that all House Members have worked on, will be presented to the House where some members may not have heard the bills before. This is where the pieces of the bill start to take shape, through the vigorous debates on the House Floor.

It is my great honor to represent you and I keep this in mind as I work for our community. There is no better place to call home than South Hillsborough County. If I or my office can be of any assistance, please do not hesitate to reach out to us.

Sincerely,

Mike

#### **In the News:**

##### **Coverage of Representative Beltran in Session:**

Sovereign Immunity Bill passes its final House Committee: Speaking on the passing of the bill, Rep. Beltran argued the cap increases...in his amended bill would still be too low, noting they are "less than any rational inflation adjustment that you could come up with from 2010 forward."

[Bill hiking payout caps for lawsuits against government clears final House committee](#)

[Sovereign immunity bills continue to move in both chambers – The Florida Bar](#)

Rep. Beltran speaks out on closing religious institutions in an public emergency:

[Churches shielded during emergencies, under bill sent to governor](#)

Rep. Beltran speaks on Residential Picketing:

[Action News Jax- Protests at Residential Dwellings](#)

Speaking on extending public records exemptions Rep. Beltran said, "...The **legislature** is allowed to pass public records exemptions for sensitive information, particularly regarding law enforcement and there is nothing more sensitive than the death penalty."

[The House has agreed to extend a public records exemption to shield manufactures of the lethal drug cocktail used in Florida executions.](#)

Speaking in support putting limits on out-of-state contributions, Rep. Beltran said, "We have out-of-state and out-of-country interests that are attempting to influence our Constitution."

[Sunshine State Lawmakers Target Out-of-State Donors](#)

#### **Bill Progress**

All of Rep. Beltran's sponsored bills were heard by at least one committee. Three of Rep. Beltran's sponsored bills were passed by a committee these past two weeks:

[HB 985](#) - Sovereign Immunity - **This bill was voted favorably by Judiciary Committee.** The Government should be held to a higher standard than the private sector, yet it holds itself to a lower standard and seeks special treatment. Florida law limits compensation to only \$200,000 per person and

\$300,000 per "incident" regardless of the number of people who are injured. If many people are hurt in one "incident," then they are limited to \$300,000 total.

Watch Rep. Beltran's presentation here: [2/28/22 House Judiciary Committee](#) beginning at 1:07:50

**HB 1095** - Telephone Solicitation - **This bill was voted on favorably by the Commerce Committee.** This bill follows up on legislation passed by the legislature last session to more precisely target those who place annoying unsolicited telephone calls, and provide greater consumer protection and remedies against those who violate the law.

Watch Rep. Beltran's presentation here: [2/23/22 House Commerce Committee](#) beginning at 46:00

**HB 1001** - Trusts - **This bill passed through the Judiciary Committee.** This bill modernizes trust law and makes Florida competitive with other jurisdictions.

Watch Rep. Beltran's presentation here: [2/21/22 House Judiciary Committee](#) beginning at 1:26:45

### **Rep. Beltran was active in debating and advocating for good legislation:**

**HB 9 - Consumer Data Privacy:** Other states have similar laws to this law. Industry says it would put undue burden on businesses but this bill only applies to businesses who are buying and selling data. If you are not in this business you have no problem and if you are then you should be ok with disclosing this information to consumers. Looking through data is not like looking through a filing cabinet, it is like looking through someone's mind. That's the info that these companies have. This is fine with consent. But I don't want these companies to be able to trade this data like they were baseball cards. We have regulations on oil and big box stores but why don't we have common sense regulations on much larger tech companies.

**HB 215 - Emergency Orders Prohibiting Religious Services or Activities:** This bill doesn't prevent government from responding to a public health emergency provided that they treat religion on par with other establishments. Our country was founded on religious freedom, it is in the first line and phrase in our foundational document. We are protecting that in statute consistent with our constitution. This bill puts religion on par with any other business or establishments that may stay open.

**HB 873 - Pub. Rec./Execution Information:** The legislature is allowed to pass public records exemptions for sensitive information, particularly regarding law enforcement and there is nothing more sensitive than the death penalty. If we can't do execution with the drugs that we have litigated for, then we would try to devise another creation and the Supreme Court may throw it out. If, at any time, Lethal Injection is found unconstitutional, then we can use another type of Death Penalty that may not be as humane such as electric chair.

**HB 921 - Campaign Financing:** This bill puts guardrails on how much money can be contributed to candidates and initiatives. We are not trying to stop groups from raising money but we are targeting out of state initiatives. We want to make sure that it is our people who are the driving force of voting and initiatives and not out of state or country interests who are trying to amend our constitution.

**HB 1571 - Residential Picketing:** First amendment case law makes clear that the State can place time, manner and place restrictions on protests to protect compelling interests. This bill is content neutral and does not say what you can and cannot protest. Under current statute, Law enforcement must first give a warning and try to disperse protest before they make any arrest.

**HB 1597 - Ukraine:** A resolution condemning the invasion of Ukraine and supporting the people of Ukraine.

**HB 6011 - Recovery of Damages in Claims for Medical Negligence:** "[The] purpose of [our] tort system is to encourage people to practice carefully, especially in cases that are life and death, and to provide compensation if there is a mistake and the current provision doesn't provide either of those...currently it cuts off people from compensation."

## **Need Help?**

My office is here to help with any issues or problem you may be having. Just give our office a call at 813-653-7097 or email at [Representative Mike Beltran](#).

[Check Out Our Facebook Page](#)

Also, to stay updated with what is happening in District 57 be sure to click the link to the right and follow my Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn!

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